

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00125 290355Z
ACTION EA-12

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R 300320Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8948
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0125

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PDIP PINR LA AU
SUBJECT: LAO OFFICIAL DEPARTS VIENTIANE FOR CANBERRA WHERE HE WILL
ASSUME DUTIES OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

REF: 77 VIENTIANE 1531 NOTAL

1. PHEUIPHAN NGAOSYVATHN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT NO. 2 (DEVELOPED NATIONS) IN THE LPDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEPARTED VIENTIANE JANUARY 28 FOR CANBERRA WHERE HE WILL TAKE UP THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN THE TWO MAN LAO MISSION THERE.
2. AN AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF TOLD US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT THE AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE THE CURRENT LAO CHARGE MAY SEEK ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA RATHER THAN RETURN TO LAOS FOR A SCHEDULED SEMINAR.
3. PHEUIPHAN WAS BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 05 DEC 2014], IN SARAVANE, LAOS. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH AND SOME ENGLISH. HE
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IS MARRIED, THOUGH HIS WIFE DID NOT DEPART WITH HIM, AND IF STANDARD LPDR PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, HIS WIFE WILL NOT JOIN HIM AT POST IN THE FUTURE. PHEUIPHAN SPENT MANY YEARS IN FRANCE PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LPDR. HE SERVED ON THE LAO DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS IN 1976 AND 1977. HE TRAVELED TO FRANCE IN DECEMBER 1976 AND IN 1977

VISITED THE PRC (6/18-6/20) AND NORTH KOREA (6/14-6/18)
AS PART OF A LAO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED
BY PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE.

4. COMMENT: PHEUIPHAN IS A VERY INTELLIGENT YOUNG LAO
OFFICIAL. PERHAPS TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HIS LONG YEARS IN
FRANCE, PHEUIPHAN IS OCCASIONALLY STIFF TO THE POINT OF
UNFRIENDLINESS IN HIS DEALING WITH WESTERNERS. HE HAS
BEEN OCCASIONALLY ARGUMENTATIVE IN CONVERSATION WITH
U.S. EMBOFFS. THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY ACCUSES HIM OF
ALERTING HIS SUPERIORS TO "IDEOLOGICAL" PROBLEMS IN
SIGNING A BILATERAL WEST GERMAN AID DOCUMENT THAT WOULD
HAVE IMPLIED LAO SUPPORT FOR THE WEST GERMAN POSITION
THAT WEST BERLIN IS PART OF THE WEST GERMAN STATE
(REFTEL). THE CHOICE OF A NEW CHARGE D'AFFAIRES FOR
THE CANBERRA POST WAS PRESUMABLY PROBLEMATIC FOR THE
LAO, GIVEN THE NUMBER LAO OFFICIALS WHO HAVE DEFECTED
TO AUSTRALIA. IN PHEUIPHAN THEY APPEAR TO HAVE CHOSEN
A TALENTED LAO WHO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN LOYAL TO THE
REGIME.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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